

REMARKS

In the July 23, 2008 Office Action, claims 1-3 stand rejected in view of prior art, while claims 4-20 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter. No other objections or rejections were made in the Office Action.

Status of Claims and Amendments

In response to the July 23, 2008 Office Action, Applicants have canceled claims 1-3 and 8-13 and 20, have amended claims 4-7 to place them in independent form, and have added claims 21-27. Thus, claims 4-7, 14-19, and 21-27 are pending, with claims 4, 5, 6, and 7 being the only independent claims. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter and the thorough examination of this application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested in view of the following comments.

Interview Summary

On October 27, 2008, the undersigned conducted a personal interview with Examiner Jones, who is in charge of the above-identified patent application. Applicants wish to thank Examiner Jones for the opportunity to discuss the above-identified patent application during the Interview of October 27, 2008.

Examiner Jones explained that portions other than the arm lever 72d of Japanese Patent Application JP 2003-014249-A could be interpreted as the plate member of the opening and closing mechanism.

Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent Application JP 2003-014249-A. In response, Applicants have canceled these claims rendering the rejections moot.

Appl. No. 10/573,045
Amendment dated November 18, 2008
Reply to Office Action of July 23, 2008

Allowable Subject Matter

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 4-20 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter and the thorough examination of this application. In response, Applicants have amended claims 4-7 to place them in independent form. Applicants believe that claims 4-7 and 14-19 are allowable.

New Claims - 21-27

Applicants have added new claims 21-27, which depend on independent claims 4-7. Applicant believes that these claims are allowable for the reasons claims 4-7 are allowable, and are further allowable because they contain additional limitations.

Examination and consideration are respectfully requested.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and comments, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 4-7, 14-19, and 21-27 are in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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